



Private Instructions for of

Deputy Post-Master

WHEREAS I have received a good Testimony of your fidelity and good affection to his Highness the Lord Protector, and this present Government, and am well satisfied of your care and discretion, I have appointed and constituted you to be Deputy Post-master for the Stage And I do hereby require you to perform your duty in general, as may best tend to the service of his Highness, and the Discharge of your Trust. And particularly, that you do faithfully observe and execute these following Instructions, besides those General and Publike Rules and Orders, which by the duty of your place, you are to observe.

1. You shall diligently take care, That all Expresses, Pacquets or Messengers who are sent for his Highness or his Affairs are concerned, be immediately and securely dispatched away.
2. That for the better discharge of your trust, you shall constantly attend this service, unless upon urgent occasions you are excused to be from home, in which case you shall employ some discreet person, for whom you will be answerable, who in your absence may be able and ready to supply for you: that his Highness service be not at any time delayed or prejudiced, whilst it is referred to your negligent or ignorant servants.
3. Forasmuch as divers ill-affectured persons may make use of this common convenience of Postage, to convey their Letters or other Papers secretly and securely, you are to take special care, that your Pacquet-Boy, or Rider, be well known to you, and for whom you will be responsible. And you are strictly to inform your self what Pacquets, Letters or Papers are put into their hands to be conveyed by them, and not in the common Mail; And in case you shall find any such, you shall then privately transmit the same to my self or Deputies.
4. And to the end that no dangerous Letters may be secretly conveyed by the Post-Boys who carry the Pacquet, you shall take a strict account of the Post-Boy, who brings the Mail to you, what Letters he received by the way, from whom he received them, and what directions were given him for the conveying of them, and in case you find any thing suspicious by the superscriptions upon the Letters, or otherwise, you shall send the Letters up to me or my Deputies, with such information as you can give in reference thereunto; And the same course you shall take, if any dangerous Letters come to your own hands.
5. You shall not permit or suffer the Mail, or any Pacquets or Letters therein to be opened, unless you are particularly impowred and directed thereunto by my self, or my Deputy.
6. If any private Letters shall be brought to you, or the Post-Boy upon the Road, you shall order them to be put into the Mail, at the next place where it is appointed to be opened, and you shall also certify the number of such Letters to the Office in London: and you are to do this by the next return of the Post.
7. Whereas by reason of this trust and employment, many opportunities are offered to you to take notice of any Design against his Highness, or for disturbing of the Peace of this Common-wealth, or shall observe any meetings of disaffected persons, you shall immediately give notice of it unto such of his Highness his Forces, Commanders or Gentlemen as are next unto you, and shall also with all speed give intelligence hereof unto me.
8. You are also to take care, That you do not permit any to ride Post from the City of London forward, but such as shall have Warrant from his Highness the Lord Protector, his Highness Council, the Generals of the Fleet, Commissioners of the Admiralty and Navy, or my self.
9. That if any other person shall come to you to ride Post, at any other Stage then from London, not having such Warrant, you shall first cause him to be examined before the Mayor, Justice of the Peace, or chief Magistrate of the Port, Town or Place, and upon satisfaction given to him and a Subscription under his hand of his name, place of abode, and nature of his business, you may allow him to ride Post, and a Certificate under your hand, which shall be sufficient authority to other Post-Masters to permit him to ride Post. Your Certificate to be to this effect.
Whereas A. B. in the County of D. is well known unto me, and hath given satisfaction under his hand, according to the Directions given me in that behalf, that he is to go for L. upon necessary affairs of his own, or his Highness, or else &c. and that he is not employed to the prejudice of the publique; you may therefore permit and suffer him to have Post-horses to proceed in his Journey; Given under my hand and seal at this day of &c.
And such Certificates as you shall give, you shall send Copies thereof up to me or my Deputies, which said Examination and Certificate shall not be necessary where you shall be satisfied that the persons desiring Post-horses, are either Officers or Ministers of State, or Officers of his Highness are sent to his Highness and Council from any other Nation.
10. You shall keep a fair paper-book wherein you shall write the names, and the number of all such as shall ride Post, and you shall send the same to me or my Deputies once every week.
11. You shall make the best inquiry you can concerning all persons whatsoever, whether they have Post-Warrants or not, and in case you shall have ground to believe, that any persons are disaffected to his Highness, and are engaged in any thing prejudicial to his Government, or the peace of the Nation, you are to make notice of all such persons, and keep them in safe custody, untill you shall give notice thereof unto me.
12. You shall also use your best diligence to take notice of what Travellers lodge in any of the Inns or other Houses in the Town of London where you are Post-master, and in case you shall understand, that any such Travellers are disaffected persons, and engaged in any Design against his Highness, and this Common-wealth, or being of the late Kings party, and are come from the parts beyond the Seas without Licence; you shall use your best endeavours to apprehend and keep them in safe custody untill you can give notice thereof unto me; or in case you shall not be able of your self, with the assistance of the Civil Officers to do it, (who are hereby required to assist you as in the execution of all other of these Instructions) you shall desire the help and aid of the Officers and Forces which are next unto you.
13. You shall have an eye upon any disaffected persons that live near you, and observe their meetings, and conversations, and give notice thereof unto me, what you shall observe concerning them, relating to the publick affairs.
14. You shall not communicate these Instructions to any person whatsoever, but as you have occasion to make use of them for justifying your actions thereby; nor of any others of them, then you shall have occasion to make use of.